

Because of the strong Republican leadership in the House and the Senate—even our Democratic colleagues in the last week joined us—denying any and all funding for closing Guantanamo Bay in the war supplemental bill.

But now we read that the President is renewing his effort to close Guantanamo Bay, despite a recent Pentagon report that nearly one out of every seven terrorist detainees previously released from Guantanamo Bay may have returned to their terrorist activity. Yesterday, the director of the FBI raised concerns about transferring these men to our local communities.

Despite these warnings, the President continues to bow to world opinion. Let me say emphatically: Mr. President, public safety comes before public relations. The American people don't want to know how closing Guantanamo Bay will make us more popular; they want to know how closing Guantanamo Bay will make us safer.

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TAX SIMPLIFICATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. In my home State of Oregon, 98 percent of our businesses are small businesses. In fact, small businesses employ 57 percent of Oregon's workforce. During Small Business Appreciation Week, I want to commend all of the small business owners in my home State and across the country who drive the economy and keep the dream of American entrepreneurship alive.

It is with that in mind that I speak about an issue that all small business owners face: the complexity of our Tax Code. Whether we're talking about dollars spent or time lost, tax complexity is an enormous drain for small businesses. With 3.7 million words, 70,000 pages, individuals and companies spend close to \$265 billion just to fill out their taxes. Sadly, our small business entrepreneurs pay the majority of that.

That's why I introduced H.R. 1509, the Home Office Deduction Simplification Act that would provide small businesses with a simple \$1,500 home office deduction to claim a credit that very few use today.

During Small Business Appreciation Week, I encourage all Members to consider ways to aid small businesses.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, health care reform is one of the most important issues Congress will tackle. Health care costs are too high, and we need real reform that ensures every American has access to affordable

quality care. The single most important tenet of high-quality care is the doctor-patient relationship. It used to be that doctors visited the patient's house. Today patients visit the doctor's office, but the principle remains the same: doctors and patients are in charge of individual health care decisions. Our top priority must be preserving and protecting that relationship.

To that end, I am proud to be sponsoring and supporting the Medical Rights Act, which will guarantee the rights of patients to control their own health care by banning government interference in those decisions. As Congress moves forward on health care reform, we need to ensure that patients and their doctors, not government bureaucrats, remain in charge of health care decisions.

CELEBRATING MEMORIAL DAY

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to honor and recognize our Nation's military and their families. As Memorial Day approaches, we remember the sacrifices of daily military life, but we also remember the legacy of service that blazed the trails of the American West and the avenues of freedom around the world.

Last weekend we laid to rest the bodies of 57 Tucson-area Civil War soldiers who were stationed in the Arizona Territory in the 1800s. They served in the Cavalry and the infantry as cooks and as scouts on the frontlines of American expansion. As we led the motorcycle escort to their final resting place near Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista, hundreds of our Nation's veterans and supporters showed through their outpouring of patriotism that the underpinnings of Memorial Day are important every single day.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering all of the servicemembers and their families who have sacrificed for our great Nation both abroad and here at home.

INTRODUCTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are hurt by identity theft every year. My legislation, the Social Security Number Fraud and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2009, H.R. 2472, will enable the Social Security Administration to work with the Department of Homeland Security in searching for records to identify individuals and employers who are using false names, false Social Security numbers, multiple individuals

using the same Social Security number, the fraudulent use of Social Security numbers taken from dead people, and individuals who had applied and received a Social Security number but who are not legally entitled to work in the United States.

According to the most recent national survey by the Federal Trade Commission, 8.3 million adults in the United States were victims of identity theft and 1.8 million adults in the U.S. reported their personal information fraudulently used by somebody else. This legislation, H.R. 2472, will end a bureaucratic loophole that keeps Federal agencies from cooperating in the fight against identity theft. I strongly urge its passage.

RESTORING FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, President Obama and this Congress inherited a fiscal and economic downturn the likes of which we have not seen in this country in generations, including a record deficit and soaring unemployment. Democrats have been committed to fiscal responsibility since taking control of the House in 2007. The first thing the Democratic-led Congress did in 2007 was re-impose PAYGO budget rules in the House. As a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, I applauded that and supported that strongly and continue to. We are working hard to reform our Nation's health care system, which will reduce the deficit, save money for consumers and improve efficiency in the health care system. I applaud President Obama and the Democratic Congress for taking these critical steps, and we will continue working with him to reduce our Nation's deficit and debt.

THE TAX KNOWN AS CAP-AND-TRADE

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, in order to seem like they are keeping the promise of no new taxes, some Democrats have simply stopped calling their tax policies taxes. For example, this week they're calling a \$645 billion tax increase cap-and-trade. But the Democratic chairman emeritus of the House Energy Committee, Congressman DINGELL, warned that most Americans didn't know that cap-and-trade was—quote—"a tax, and a great big one." Cap-and-tax supporters suggest this money is pulled out of thin air. The truth is that each year under cap-and-tax, every American household will have to come up with an additional \$3,100 just to heat the house, run the washing machine or use energy. Most families don't have an extra \$3,100 just